

MARVEL®

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THE OFFICIAL MARVEL NEWS MAGAZINE!

MARVEL AGE™

6 SEPT

ONLY
25¢



PREVIEWS OF HAWKEYE,
ILLYANA AND STORM,
AND CLOAK & DAGGER!
PLUS: WALT SIMONSON'S
PLANS FOR THOR!

LEONARDI



LISTEN, POWER MAN'S
NOT HERE RIGHT NOW, SO
WE HAVE A FEW SECONDS
TO TALK.

THE PROBLEM IS, HE
FOUND OUT THAT SOME
OF YOU AREN'T BUYING
OUR MAGAZINE* AND
THAT'S MAKING HIM...
WELL, MAD.

WHEN HE
GETS MAD,
HE BREAKS
THINGS.

AND
PEOPLE.

ONE

***POWER MAN
AND
IRON FIST**

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CHANGES

One thing you can always count on from mixed-up Marvel is change. Marvel is constantly evolving, trying new directions and daring to take risks. It's an unavoidable and wonderful part of the whole creative process. A major reason for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's very existence is to chronicle those many changes. This issue's Coming Attractions section, for example, announces a surprising amount of dramatic changes and events in the lives of several major Marvel heroes. Also covered in this issue are big changes like Walt Simonson taking over the creative reigns on THOR and the dynamic developments taking place in the CLOAK & DAGGER, ILLYANA AND STORM and HAWKEYE Limited Series. Why, Limited Series themselves are a rather revolutionary change in the way comic books are published.

In fact, this very magazine is going through a few changes. The biggest begins next issue when MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE doubles its size and expands to thirty-two pages! The price, however, won't change! Yes, you read that right! Even at twice the size, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE will still cost only twenty-five cents! That's because you've made MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE such a success, we're not about to spoil it by getting greedy. As already announced last issue, the extra pages will be devoted to more news, interviews, behind-the-scenes, articles and the debut of our New Talent Department. Not surprisingly, these changes necessitated yet another change. MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE needs an editor who can dedicate exclusively the added time and effort the extra work assembling an issue requires. That's where I come in. After spending many months scripting coloring and



Editor **Salicrup**'s facial features are so frightening that he is forced to wear a metal mask and a hood!

activity books for the recently-created Marvel Books (a fun-filled line of publications designed especially for younger audiences) and writing the colorful comic book debut of Kool-Aid Man (You can still get a free copy by sending your name and address to: Kool-Aid Man Comic Book, P.O. Box 100, Bradley, Illinois 60915.) I was ready for a creative change of pace myself. Marvel trivia buffs may remember that I edited THE AVENGERS, FANTASTIC FOUR, STAR WARS and quite a few others not that long ago. The opportunity to work with Jim Shooter again is very exciting. Working with Jim has changed my life in many ways and I'm most grateful to have the opportunity to edit MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE at this important juncture.

The most obvious change instituted this issue is probably the new page designs. Please let me know what your reaction is. Better still, take the time to write us a letter and let us know your opinions on anything that concerns the mighty world of Marvel! Remember, you're still the *real* editors of Marvel Comics! That's one thing that will never change!

Jim Salicrup

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MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all Marvel titles bearing an October cover date. (A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues. A **Graphic Novel** is a trade-paperback sized edition. A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets. **Shipping Date** refers to the date the comics leave the printer. A word to the wise, please tell your comics specialty shop owner which titles you wish to buy as soon as possible! Marvel Comics sell out so fast, unless your comics shop owner knows which titles you want, you may not get them!

Titles shipping August 2, on sale August 23

THE THING #6 - A startling, irrevocable change in the manipulative **Puppet Master**! And, while Alicia convalesces in a hospital bed, Ben Grimm's strength and will are tested as never before! A gripper! **John Byrne**, script; **Ron Wilson**, pencils; **Hilary Barta**, inks.

KA-ZAR #29 - The wedding of **Ka-Zar**! A special double-sized issue, available at newsstands everywhere as well as comics shops to celebrate the big event! See **Zabu** in black tie and tail! **Mike Carlin**, script; **Armando Gil**, pencils; **Mike Mignola**, inks.

DAREDEVIL #201 - **DD** at his fighting best - a shocking revelation from **Heather Glenn**! **Denny O'Neill**, script; **William Johnson**, pencils.

NEW MUTANTS #10 - How can the young, inexperienced **New Mutants** tell foul from fair when the bad guys demonstrate tenderness and concern for the young heroes? And how does **Rahne** react to the **New Romans** worshipping her as a goddess? **Chris Claremont**, script; **Sal Buscema**, pencils; **Bob McLeod**, inks.

RED SONJA (Limited Series) #3 - Followers of Marvel's **She-Devil** with a sword know that **Red Sonja** cannot take a lover until such a man defeats her in battle. Well, now it comes to pass! Meet the man who

A romantic moment with **Ka-Zar** and **Shanna**, as penciled by amorous **Armando Gil**.



bests **Red Sonja** and explore the ramifications in "Seige," written by **Tom DeFalco** and penciled by **Mary Wilshire**.

THE FALCON (Limited Series) #2 - In this corner, standing 6'2" and weighing in at 240 lbs., the **Falcon**! His foe? A mighty robot **Sentinel**, 20 feet tall and tipping the scales at just over several hundred tons! Place your bets! **Jim Owsley**, script; pencils by sensational new talent and paperback cover artist **Mark Bright**; inks by **Mike Gustovich**.

RETURN OF THE JEDI (Limited Series) #3 - The third chapter of Marvel's official adaptation of the latest **STAR WARS** adventure. Scripted by **Archie Goodwin** and illustrated by **AJ Williamson**. 'Nuff said.

MOON KNIGHT SPECIAL EDITION #2 - Reprinting the full-color **Moon Knight** tales by **Doug Moench** and **Bill Sienkiewicz** from rare issues of the **HULK** magazine. More of the stories that inspired fandom to request that **Moon Knight** be granted a solo series! This issue,

"An Eclipse Waxing... An Eclipse Waning," from **HULK #15**, "Nights Born Ten Years Gone," from **HULK #17**, and "Shadows in the Heart of the City" from **HULK #18**, presented on high-quality **Baxter** paper. And wait till you see the stunning new wraparound full-color cover, painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz**! Direct sales only.

Titles shipping August 9, on sale August 30:

SPIDER-MAN #247 - How does Aunt May react when Peter Parker finally reveals that he has dropped out of graduate school? What is the secret about **Mary Jane Watson**'s mysterious past? And where does the **Frog Man** fit into this? **Roger Stern**, script; **John Romita, Jr.**, pencils; **Dave Simons**, inks.

CAPTAIN AMERICA #288 - In the devastated nuclear wasteland of the 1990s, **Cap** teams up with **Deathlock**, the rebel cyborg, to fight for America's future. **J.M. DeMatteis**, script; **Mike Zeck**, pencils; **John Beatty**, inks. Cover by **Zeck** and **Beatty**.

MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Sentinel of Liberty battles the sinister Cyborg of the future! Art by Zeck and Beatty



THOR #338 – Remember, the very first Thor story, the mighty hammer Mjolnir bore the inscription “whosoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy, shall possess the power of Thor”? Now along comes an alien with the unlikely name of “Beta Ray Bill,” who challenges Dr. Donald Blake as the worthy possessor of the Thunder God’s power – and succeeds! **Walt Simonson**, writer, penciler, and inker continues to take the Asgardian Avenger to new heights of glory! (**MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** talks to Walt about his plans for Thor on page 13.)

INDIANA JONES #12 – The third greatest archeological find of all time – and Indy unearths it! But instead of fame and fortune it brings him only trouble – and we mean big trouble – as well as the most perplexing dilemma he’s ever faced. Oh, yeah, if you read this issue, we might let on to what the first and second greatest discoveries were! **David Michelinie**, script; **Kerry Gammill**, pencils. **David** and **Kerry** are pulling out all the stops on this series, to capture all the excitement of the classic film by

Steven Spielberg!

US 1 (Limited Series) #7 – If you thought **Galactus** was tough or that **Doctor Doom** was nasty – forget it! You ain’t seen nothin’ until you’ve seen **Wide Load Annie** lose her cool! It’s a tongue-in-check gas in the tradition of the **Dukes of Hazzard** written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**. Cover by **Michael Golden**.

STAR WARS ANNUAL #2 – When a young boy hoping to become a Jedi Knight finds no encouragement from **Luke Skywalker**, **Darth Vader** welcomes him to the Dark Side of the Force. An allegory of space, power, and human nature crafted by **Jo Duffy**, scripter; and **Klaus Janson**, pencils, inks and colors.

DOCTOR STRANGE #62 – The story to end all vampire stories! And we mean that literally! You’ll witness a major event in the Marvel Universe, when all vampires, **Dracula** included, are banished from Earth forever! A Marvel milestone scripted by **Roger Stern** and



penciled and inked by **Steve Leialoha**.

HAWKEYE (Limited Series) #4 – The shock-filled culminating chapter in this important series. To win in battle against **Mockingbird**, **Hawkeye** must make a sacrifice that will physically handicap him for the rest of his life! Plus, a stunning surprise ending! You’ll see the Avenging Archer do something no other Marvel hero has ever done before! Writer **Mark Gruenwald**, writer and penciler; **Brett Breeding**, inker. (**Mark Gruenwald** reveals the behind-the-scenes story on the making of this **Limited Series** on page 10 of this issue.)

ILLYANA AND STORM (Limited Series) #3 – Will **Illyana** be at the total mercy of the treacherous **Belasco** when **Storm** dies? Yes, **Storm** dies – look, you’re just going to have to read it! **Chris Claremont**, script; **John Buscema**, pencils; **Tom Palmer**, inks. (See page 15 for more information on this exciting **Limited Series**).

S.H.I.E.L.D. (Limited Series) #1 – This first issue, collector’s item represents some of the best of **Jim Steranko**’s legendary work on the **Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.** series! If you missed these classic tales the first time around or would like to see them reproduced on high-quality **Baxter** paper, then this special, direct sales only edition is for you! It’s 48 page of super-spy adventures for only \$2.00! The full-color wraparound cover alone is worth that much! And guess who did the all-new cover art? We’re not tellin’. Yet.

MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #94 - How can Conan rule as king in a world he never made, when he has to battle - himself? Don't miss "The Darksome Demon of Raba-Than." Swords, sorcery, and mystery in a time-lost land! **Mike Fleisher**, script; **John Buscema**, pencils.

Titles shipping August 16, on sale September 6:

HULK #290 - The misshapen **Modok** can't get a date - so he steals away the **Hulk's** lady-love and turns her into a female version of himself! **Bill Mantlo**, script; **Sal Buscema**, pencils; **Joe Sinnott**, inks.

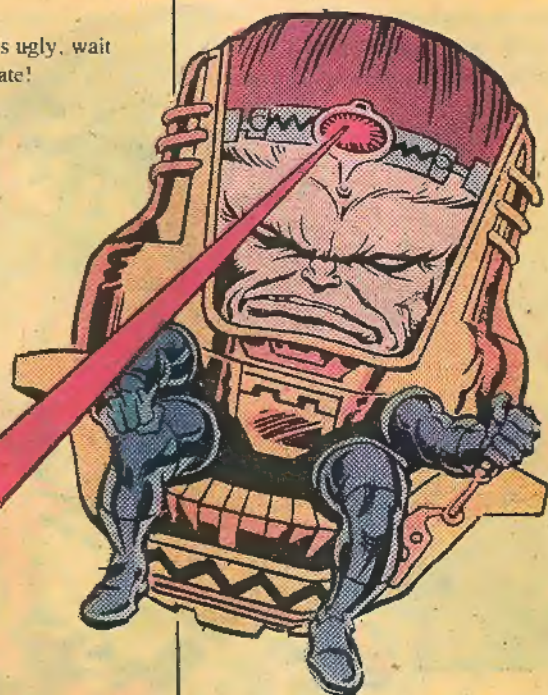
AVENGERS #238 The previously unknown, true origin of the villainous **Blackout** is told at last! **Captain Marvel** finally displays her full fighting prowess! Plus the menace of **Moonstone**! **Roger Stern**, script; **Al Milgrom**, pencils; **Joe Sinnott**, inks.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #153 - Why must **Conan** prevent the destruction of a floating city before the woman who saved his life dies? Find out when our sullen Cimmerian takes on wizards, warriors, and winged beasts in "The Bird Men of Akah Ma'at!" A must! **Mike Fleisher**, script; **John Buscema**, pencils; **Ernie Chan**, inks.

MARVEL TALES #158 - "The Coming of the Scorpion!" reprinted from the classic **SPIDER-MAN** #20 by **Stan Lee**, script and **Steve Ditko**, art. The first appearance of **Spider-Man's** most menacing foe the **Scorpion**! The wall-crawler pits his wits against the **Scorpion's** thrashing tail in a classic sequence of comic-art excitement!

X-MEN #176 - It begins with a bizarre battle with giant squids and winds up with a honeymoon in outer space! Who are our mutant honeymooners? Learn the startling answer this issue! **Spider-Man's** **John Romita, Jr.** premieres as penciler in "Decisions," written by **Chris Claremont** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. (Don't fret, **Paul Smith** fans! The remarkably talented **Mr.**

If you think **Modok** is ugly, wait till you meet his mate!
Art by **Buscema** and **Mooney**.



Smith returns to penciling **Marvel's** Master of the Mystic Arts, **Doctor Strange**!)

ROM #49 - "Massacre!" Death comes to **Rom's** closest friends when he returns to Clairton, West Virginia! And his energy analyzer is useless against the new breed of **Dire Wraiths**! You must not miss the dramatic developments which lead up to next month's double-sized, fiftieth anniversary issue! **Bill Mantlo**, script; **Sal Buscema**, pencils; **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**, inks.

POWER MAN/IRON FIST #100 - Special, double-length, One-Hundredth Anniversary Issue! Featuring the secret origin of **K'un L'un** and all the major characters from our protagonists' careers! **Kurt Busiek**, script; **Ernie Chan**, pencils and inks.

G.I. JOE #18 - Our heroes battle against **Cobra** on a volatile oil field when "Destro Returns!" **Larry Hama**, script; **Mike Vosburg**, pencils; **Jon D'Agostino**, inks.

CLOAK & DAGGER (Limited Series) #3 - **Marvel's** youngest new superstars in the series that you demanded! **Cloak's** hunger grows

uncontrollably, and **Dagger** is the only one who can stop it - but only if she dies herself! **Bill Mantlo**, script; **Rick Leonardi**, pencils; **Terry Austin**, inks. (**Bill Mantlo** offers an inside look at **Cloak and Dagger** on page 7 of this issue of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**.)

MARVEL AGE #9 - The magazine designed just for you! Featuring surprises, news, articles, and New Talent! Straight-shooting from the House of Ideas of for only a quarter!

BLIP #9 - The video games magazine that may just be more exciting than a trip to the arcade! This mag just keeps getting better and better every issue! It would still be the biggest bargain in video game magazines at twice the price! (It's only a buck!)

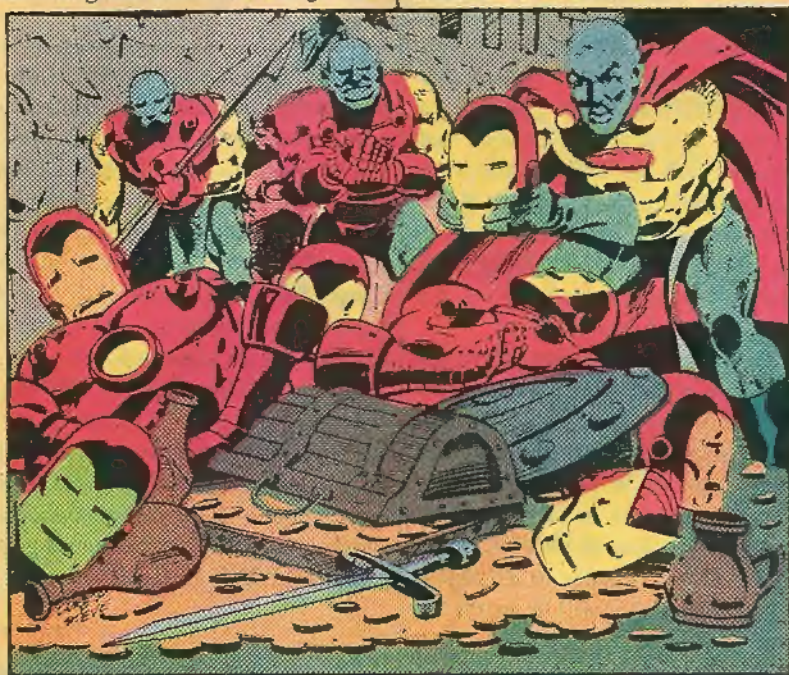
Titles shipping August 23, on sale September 13:

FANTASTIC FOUR #261 - The title says it all - "The Search for Reed Richards!" It features a serious assessment of **Galactus's** humanity, **Reed Richards's** integrity, the **Watcher's** loyalty, and the **Silver Surfer's** convictions! Plus - a special guest appearance by **Princess**

MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

"I'd like to be under the sea..." sings Warlord Krang as he uncovers a strange treasure in an upcoming issue of the **INVINCIBLE IRON MAN!**

ure in an upcoming issue of the **INVINCIBLE IRON MAN!**



Llandra of **X-MEN** fame! Continuing the multi-part saga written, penciled, and inked by **John Byrne**.

MARVEL TEAM-UP #136 - Teaming up **Spidey** with **Wonder-Man**! It's non-stop action from cover to cover! You'll never guess the villain! **David Michelinie**, script; **Ron Frenz**, pencils; **Mike Esposito**, inks.

IRON MAN #177 - It's a new career for **Iron Man**! But **Erwin** and **Rhodey's** enterprise in high-tech electronics leads to high danger when... but that would be telling! Plus what happens to **Tony Stark**? **Denny O'Neil**, script; **Luke McDonnell**, pencils; **Steve Mitchell**, inks.

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDE-MAN #85 - What are **Liz Allen** and **Harry Osborne** smiling about? The answer will surprise you! Meanwhile, the **Hobgoblin** returns with more superpowers and weapons than the original **Green Goblin** ever had. And a perplexed **Spider-Man** ponders whether to allow his love, the **Black Cat**, to lead her life of danger and thrills - but how could he

stop her? **Bill Mantlo**, script; **Al Milgrom**, pencils; **Jim Mooney**, inks.

DEFENDERS #126 - Remember **Moondragon**? Remember how her arrogant personality turned her from a hero to the most incorrigible **AVENGERS** villainess of all? Well, she's in the **DEFENDERS** - and **Valkyrie** on orders from **Odin** has to teach her humility and cooperation! Needless to say, our newest ensemble of **Defenders** is in for some growing pains as a team. Don't miss "State of the Union," written by **J.M. DeMatteis** and penciled by **Don Perlin**.

STAR WARS #78 - All new adventures of the world-famous characters from the greatest science fantasy epic ever! You won't believe the car chase this issue with **Lando** and a drunken **Wookiee**, as the search for **Han Solo** continues! **Jo Duffy**, script; **Ron Frenz**, pencils; **Tom Palmer**, inks.

KRULL (Limited Series) #2 - The climax and conclusion of Marvel's adaptation of the Columbia Pictures science fantasy extravaganza finds **Colwyn** and **Lyssa** facing the **Beast** in the heart of his lair. **David**

Michelinie, script; **Bret Blevins**, pencils; **Vince Colletta**, inks.

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #12 - The final set-completing issue! **The Valkyrie** through **Zzzax**, illustrated by **John Byrne**, **Paul Smith**, **Walt Simonson**, and many, many more! This volume contains facts and vital statistics on, among others, **the Vision** and **The X-Men**!

ALPHA FLIGHT #5 - Marvel's newest super hero team blazes ahead with no let-up in sight! It's field day for **Puck** fans, as Canada's diminutive daredevil goes solo in a dramatic tale of dangerous drug abuse. Featuring a back-up story chronicling the unknown origin of **Shaman**! **John Byrne**, script, pencils, and inks.

WHAT IF #42 - What if **Sue Richards** had died during the birth of her son **Franklin**? In this story, **Reed**, **Ben**, and **Johnny** fail to retrieve the element that saved her life in **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #6**. The grief drives **Reed** to battle **Annihilus** - alone in the **Negative Zone**! Not even **Prince Namor**, the **Sub-Mariner** can help! **Peter Gillis**, script; **Ron Frenz**, pencils.

SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #17 - **Peter Parker's** Fifth High School Reunion renews old conflicts and introduces new problems for the web-spinner! Can **Peter** find out before he has to face the **Kingpin**? **Roger Stern**, script; penciled by **Ed Hannigan**. Cover by **Hannigan**.

COYOTE #4 - How does the most unique hero of all, the **Coyote** and **Natalia** get out of the blistering heat of the desert alive? And do they want to, when there's a mysterious **Israeli** secret agent waiting for them? An **Epic Comic** produced by **Steve Englehart**, script; **Butch Guice**, art.

Note: The information that appears in "Coming Attractions" is as complete and accurate as we can manage. Occasionally changes are made after the column is put together. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause!

NEWSWATCH

"You're about to see some exciting changes from Marvel's "Non-Team" title, **THE DEFENDERS!**" reports dedicated editor **Carl Potts**. "First off, the group will no longer be a loose amalgamation of various heroes. Starting with issue # 125 there will be a solid and consistent line-up." To celebrate this major change in **THE DEFENDERS**, issue #125 will be a special double-sized issue! The **Defenders** will be former **X-Men**, the **Beast**, the **Ice-man** and the **Angel**, from the planet **Titan**, the mysterious **Moondragon**, from **Asgard**, the valient **Valkyrie** and that guy who looks like he fell of an old building, the **Gargoyle**!

Carl promises that future **DEFENDERS** tales will feature more action without sacrificing any of the intense emotional themes which **J.M. DeMatteis** writes so well! And wait till you see how talented new-

comer, **Kim DeMulder** adds a new flair and depth with his incredible inking to the pencils of **Don Perlin**. And if you've seen how **Don** has cut loose with new layout and story-telling techniques, you'd realize that **THE DEFENDERS** is going to be the book to watch! We believe that long-time **DEFENDERS** followers will be ecstatic over the new directions! But if you haven't been picking up **THE DEFENDERS** in awhile, we'd recommend giving it a try! You'll like what you see!

We wanted to drop hints about the nifty new project **Tom DeFalco** was up to and mention some of the surprise packages **Bob Budlansky** has in store but we're just about out of room! You'll just have to wait till next issue, when **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** expands to 32 pages! We promise that it will be worth the wait!

MARVEL COMING RETRACTIONS

ILLYANA AND STORM (Limited Series) has been rescheduled to appear one month after it was originally supposed to appear. That means that issue 2, and not issue 3, ships August 9th. Retailers, please note. The extra time will allow **Chris, John and Tom** to really do it right and make sure that this will be a **Limited Series** to remember!

KULL THE CONQUEROR, also note, will now be shipping August 2nd. **KULL** will be available on newsstands and at Direct Sales outlets for only one dollar. For sophisticated sword and sorcery drama, you can't beat **KING KULL**!

REMINDER TO RETAIL STORE OWNERS:

You still have time to have your store listed in almost every Marvel Comic for \$250 for a two month placement. Just fill out the coupon, include your check (made out to Kalish, Quigley

& Rosen), and send to:

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Important Notice:

The next closing date for this offer is 8-1-83. Get your listing in while there's still room. If you have a catalogue, we will mention it at no extra cost.

Yes—I do want to be listed in **MARVEL COMICS SUPER MART!!!!**

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Enclose check for \$250.00. Mail to: K. Q & R, 667 Madison Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10021

THE CREATION OF A NEW LIMITED SERIES

CLOAK AND DAGGER

by
Bill Mantlo



I'd like to say that I know *how* I created Cloak and Dagger, but that would be a lie.

One of the central problems regarding creativity seems to be that it never comes to those actively engaged in looking for it. Rather, the consensus suggests that creativity finds creators, and not vice versa.

That's what happened with Cloak and Dagger. I had just been asked to write **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**, by its Editor, Tom DeFalco. Spider-Man was, is, and I suppose always will be my favorite character in the Marvel Universe. **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #4** was the first Marvel comic I ever read. The magic remained with me. In addition, Tom held out another plum: If I accepted the assignment, I'd get to work with Ed Hannigan, a man I consider one of the most creative young artists in comics today.

So, fool that I was, I said yes.

Nothing like putting one's head in

the noose.

That left one small problem. Succeeding. You see, it's one thing to undertake to write a mag for Mighty Marvel. It's quite another to do it well. And I wanted to write **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** well. I wanted to prove to Tom that I could handle the character. I wanted to give Ed a chance to flex his artistic muscles. And I wanted to capture the same magic in my stories that Stan Lee had in his.

With all that heaped voluntarily upon my shoulders, I found myself terrified of submitting my first plot. I wavered. I waffled. I went on long excursions to avoid my typewriter.

One of those excursions was by ferry to Ellis Island, a national park nestled in the Hudson River, a place dubbed "the Island of Tears" by the countless immigrants who passed through it on their way to citizenship in America.

The place haunted me. It was to this ruin that my grandparents had

come almost a century earlier. Had they been turned away by uncaring immigration officials then, I'd be writing comics in Italian today. The empty halls, the broken, vaulted windows, all seemed to whisper in long forgotten voices. The island bespoke misery and fear and hunger and longing. But I still had no story. I went home.

Not long after, Cloak and Dagger came to me.

They came in the night, when all was silent and my mind was blank. They came completely conceived as to their powers and attributes, their origin and motivation. They embodied between them all that fear and misery, hunger and longing that had haunted me on Ellis Island. I wrote the story. It was **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64**. I think it was the best story I've ever written.

The next day I called Tom DeFalco. "Listen," I said, "I've just finished the best story I've ever written." He was not impressed. Until he

read it.

Ed Hannigan's reaction was similar. I'm glad it was Ed who illustrated that job. His first sketches caught the sense of the characters that I'd tried to convey in the plot. For his visualization, and for his continuing creative input regarding Cloak and Dagger's development, Ed Hannigan will forever be listed as my Co-Creator. Credit where credit's due.

Al Milgrom was important, too. Perhaps one of the most dramatic inkers in comics, Al's moody renderings of Cloak and Dagger's initial appearance (accidentally credited to Jim Mooney) caught perfectly the "gotham gothic" sense I'd tried to work into the tale.

When Tom told me that Ed Hannigan wouldn't be able to handle the CLOAK AND DAGGER LIMITED SERIES, I was crestfallen. Who could possibly illustrate Cloak and Dagger in such a way, and with such concern, as to invest them with the heart and soul I felt they must have in order to succeed?

Al Milgrom was a first choice. But Al, who had taken on the penciling chores for both THE AVENGERS and THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, not to mention scripting U.S. 1, was swamped.

Then Rick Leonardi's name came up. I'd worked with Rick on both THOR and SPIDER-MAN, and was in the midst of the VISION AND SCARLET WITCH LIMITED SERIES with him. Rick is an exciting new artist whose work hadn't yet received the attention it deserved. But I knew he'd be right for Cloak and Dagger, and that they'd be right for him. The results speak for themselves.

Rick Leonardi has brought an intensity and excitement to CLOAK AND DAGGER that is more than I ever could have hoped for. His design is daring and original. His characterization insightful. His draftsmanship a joy to behold. If Ed couldn't handle CLOAK AND DAGGER, I'm glad that Rick could.

Cloak and Dagger were born, on Ellis Island, in 1982.

And to this day I don't know how.

THE ORIGIN OF CLOAK AND DAGGER

by Bill Mantlo



Cloak and Dagger were born on Ellis Island, New York in January, 1982. They were born in darkness. They were born in light. They were born... and the children they had been died forever.

Not much yet is known of who Cloak and Dagger were before their amazing metamorphosis. That they were not from New York can be deduced from the fact that they came here as runaways. Who or what it was they were running away from still remains a mystery. But they came to the Big Apple, following the route of a Greyhound Bus over the black-topped highways of America only to be deposited finally in the Port Authority Bus Terminal. The end of the line.

The chickenhawks awaited them. "Chickenhawks" is an underworld slang euphemism for "those who prey on the young." The Mob had its predators watching every bus that pulled into the terminal. The Mob was into drugs. Heavy. The problem with the

drug trade, though, is that it operates on an importation basis. The drugs don't grow on New York City streets. They have to come from elsewhere, from steaming jungles outside the United States. The costs and risks of importation were growing. The Mob wanted to cut its overhead. To do that they blackmailed a debt-ridden pharmacist - Simon Marshall - to synthesize a brand-new drug. Cheap to produce and cheap to sell, the new drug would wipe all other narcotics off the street... and reap enormous profits for the Mob. Trouble was... the Mob needed guinea pigs. The chickenhawks found them.

Among those who stepped off the buses one day were a 17-year old black boy from the ghettos of Boston, and a 16-year old white, middle class girl from Shaker Heights, Cleveland. They had little in common, save that both had run away from home. Hungry, homeless, scared, they were susceptible to any



offer of shelter, security and sustenance. The chickenhawks extended a helping hand

That hand soon became a fist in which the teens and others like them found themselves trapped. They were turned over to the Mob and taken aboard a power-launch at midnight that bore them across the Hudson River to Ellis Island. There, Simon Marshall and his drug were waiting.

The kids cried. The kids begged. The Mob turned a deaf ear. Grinning, Marshall prepared and administered the injections. The kids began to die. The drug was too powerful – a failure. Washing its hands of the project, the Mob left. But two of the teens stirred. Two of the children survived. In agony, the drug that had murdered their companions coursing through their veins, the girl from Cleveland and the boy from Boston dragged themselves out of the old Immigration Building and plunged into the icy waters of the Hudson River. Plunging into darkness.

In darkness were Cloak and Dagger born

When they emerged from the frozen waters, the children were changed. The boy had become a specter, a shadow, a void, a darkness all-consuming. The girl glowed as if from within, warm where the boy was cold, light where he was darkest. It was the drugs that had done this to them – the drugs coupled, perhaps, with their own fear or some innate genetic characteristics that they both possessed.

The boy soon found an enormous Cloak to contain his darkness. Wrapped in its fold, he appeared almost human. When that Cloak of Darkness opened, however, any semblance of humanity vanished.

The girl donned modified dancing tights and discovered that, with an effort of will, she could focus that light that seemed to fill every fiber of her being and send it forward as soul-numbing daggers of light. Beside the demon-dark Cloak, Dagger was an angel of light.

Together, they were. Cloak and Dagger.

Their first mission was to avenge themselves on those who created them, who robbed them of their childhood. That task accomplished, they broadened their horizons, going after any and all who, dealing drugs, preyed on the young. But a few encounters with Spider-Man altered their perspective. Punishment, he plead with them, should be reserved to those who enforce the law, by setting themselves up as judge, jury and executioner. Cloak and Dagger became no better than the lawless predators they preyed upon. The message got through. Soon, Cloak and Dagger modified their mission. Cloak and Dagger turned their powers to purging addicts of their addictions. Punishment was reserved for those who pushed drugs for profit. Like the Amazing Spider-Man, these children came to realize that with great power come great responsibility. Cloak and Dagger have gone from villains to heroes.

THE CREATION OF A NEW LIMITED SERIES

HAWKEYE

by Mark Gruenwald

In his nineteen years of comic book life, he's been a carnival entertainer, a dupe of foreign spies, a sparring partner for the Invincible Iron

Man, a writer, and a

catch his premiere in **TAL** **SUSPENSE** #37, when

in **AVENGERS** #16 onward. When I was a kid, the two things I really liked about Hawkeye was that he was gutsy — imagine making fun of Captain America to his face! — and i-
ble. Yes, when I was twelve years old, I had a cheap bow and arrow set, and used to run around the backyard shooting arrows at my friends (I put tinkertoy knobs on the end of each

croquet mallet to return to your hand or a piece of string to wrap around your foe like a sticky web?). Pretending to be Hawkeye was more easily realized than most other Marvel

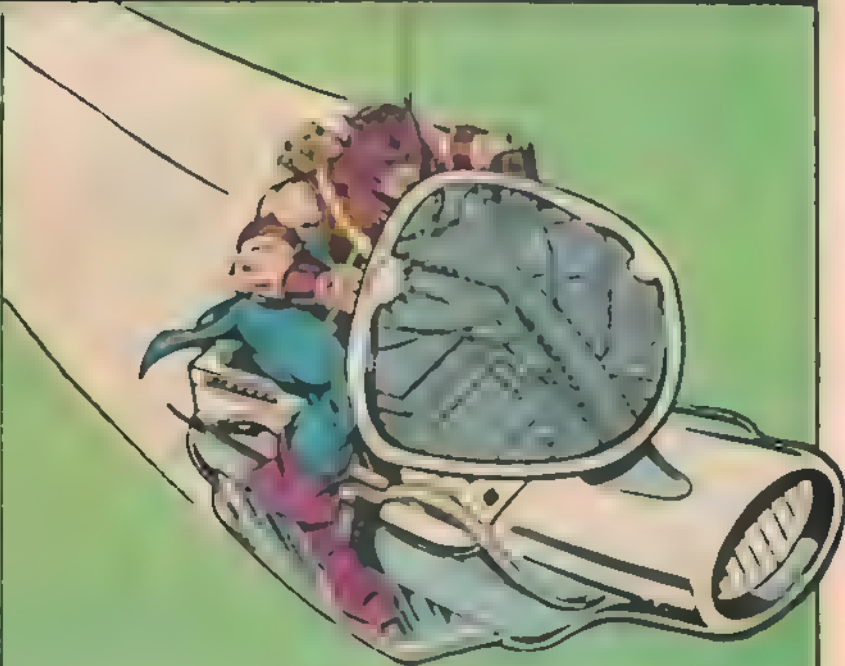


heroes.

That's probably one of the reasons why I still like him so much now. Hawkeye is very believable. I can relate to him. He's an ordinary guy who ran off to join the circus (who hasn't wanted to do that at least once?) and gained his superior abilities the hard way: by practice. I admire someone who dreams of excelling at one single thing, be it archery, bread-making, or computer programming, and works at that skill or discipline, not satisfied until he becomes the best there is. Hawkeye is the self-made super hero.

I first began thinking about a limited series featuring Hawkeye in the fall of '81. Having completed a year of 'cosmos-breaking' exploits on THOR, I was in the mood for something literally more down to Earth, so I approached Jim Shooter with the concept. We kicked around ideas about the archer's past and future and I kept getting more psyched up by the minute. Just before I left, Jim asked me who I had in mind for an artist. I told him I didn't really know. Jim suggested that if I couldn't find anyone, that I should take a crack at the panel breakdowns myself. He had seen some of my cover layouts and costume designs and felt that having me try to be an artist would make a better writer out of me. I didn't know what he meant at first, but I do now. Drawing one of my own plots helped me get a better handle on pacing, story flow, and dramatics.

I began the first HAWKEYE book in the winter of '81. Since it was not yet on the schedule, I found myself



taking on the art and script chores for two other books (WHAT IF and TEAM-UP ANNUAL) before starting the second HAWKEYE. Consequently, even though HAWKEYE #1 is my first art job, later efforts have been published already. Now, over a year past penciling the first part, I'm doing the other three parts of the series.

A good Limited Series, in my opinion, is a quartet of stories which feature a major crisis and resolution in the life of a hero — the outcome of which will in some way alter the hero's life thereafter. Well, that's what the HAWKEYE series is going to be. It's the story of Hawkeye coming to grips with his life. For now, Hawkeye's sense of identity has been too entwined with his membership in the Avengers, where his natural powers were constantly eclipsed by the superhuman powers of his teammates. Somehow he managed not to develop an inferiority complex, but he still found that years of operating as a team member made it difficult for him to operate independently. As a result, he's been a revolving door Avenger, never quite able to stay away from the comforting haunts of Avengers Mansion for more than a few months at a time. In the Limited Series, Hawkeye finally has to face up to being his own man.

But that's not all. This Limited Series also deals with Hawkeye's troubled love-life. The hapless Hawkeye seems to have a penchant for getting involved with women who can't or won't return his love. The Black Widow and the Scarlet Witch both eventually spurned his affections preferring other men: Superhuman ones, at that. He's still searching to find out what it is about him that makes him a loser in the game of love. This series will present a dramatic emotional turning point on that score. His romantic interest will be an ex-S.H.I.E.L.D. agent named Mockingbird, who way back when, was involved with a certain jungle lord by the name of Ka-Zar. That relationship never quite worked out to Mockingbird's satisfaction. What happens when two of love's losers get together is another major storyline of the book.

It is sometimes said that you can judge a hero by the strength of his enemies. Well, with Hawkeye, he's never had any to call his own. This series changes all that! Hawkeye will encounter The Silencer, a deadly gun-toting assassin who swallows all the sound around him, Oddjob, a zany juggler who can throw hardballs faster than Hawkeye can shoot stun-arrows and Bombshell, a demolitions specialist packing a portable incendiary bomb launcher. Bombshell, by



the way was the brainchild of my editorial buddy Mike Carlin. Three of these scoundrels work for a

revealed in the Limited Series) who is out to use Hawkeye in a scheme to

York City.

protect the palm-side of the first joint on the two fingers that draw the string and got rid of the bracelets around his biceps and replaced with sleeves that would make N York winters a bit more

studded with ornamental peg Brett suggested should be

is quiver, flip open a pouch customized arrowhead (such as a smoke bomb), stick it on the

mental part of functional one. Other than

aetrical modifications Hawkeye it looks like his traditional, love-able self.

se on his face (fie ek target archer order to aim. Ne will anyway), c show the avenging rectly.

I'm having the time of putting him through the ordi life. He's always

quarter of whopping teach complete in themse vancing the major m feature a hard-through a drama

warrant his own monthly Marvel magazine!



WALT SIMONSON TACKLES

THE MIGHTY THOR

by Patrick Daniel O'Neil

Walt Simonson remembers JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY STARRING THOR #120 as the first Marvel comic he ever bought. And since that time, Simonson's favorite super hero has been the golden-tressed thunder god. Now, beginning with issue #337, Thor's adventures will be written, penciled and inked by Walt Simonson. MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE talked to Simonson about his plans for the Asgardian Avenger.

MARVEL AGE: Will you be altering the direction of THOR?

WALT SIMONSON: I have some major changes in mind. There are

two major directions. One feeling I have about THOR is that the book has gotten extremely top-heavy. For example, you have a zillion pantheons of deities all floating around. When Hercules showed up the first time it was great — but now, you've got Egyptian gods, Incan gods, Hindu gods. After a while, in that company, Thor is just one more super-powered guy. It may be that he's the best of all those guys — but Thor sort of gets lost in the shuffle. I plan to do some major surgery on the vast supporting cast that has grown around the lead character in the last twenty years. I don't want to get too

specific and ruin any surprises.

One thing I can say: in the very first Thor story, when Don Blake finds the magic walking stick/hammer, the hammer says: "Whosoever holds the hammer, if he be worthy, shall have the power of Thor". That was the deal, originally. In my first issue, somebody else finds the hammer who's worthy. It kind of leaves Don Blake stuck.

MA: But Don Blake is Thor, spiritually and physically

WS: I don't dispute that. All I'm saying is that the original deal was whoever held the hammer, if he was worthy, would have the power of Thor.

The other thing I'm going to do is build in a framing device. The device itself consists of a two-page introduction showing a mysterious figure and



some mysterious goings-on, all of which will be revealed as time goes by. I'm going to use the framing device to try and create a unity in the book, in among the characters themselves. And a unity of purpose behind the book. I'd like to create a sort of underlying unity among the characters, both on Earth and in Asgard. MA: Will the current storyline be completely tied up before you begin your changes?

WS: That will be all taken care of. I'm a long-time fan of Thor. Basic-

ally, I would like to make Thor an interesting book to read, and to do that I'd like to make the book an interesting book to create. I expect I will be doing a sort of classic Thor. I don't expect to change the character of Thor... but I'd like to enlarge on Thor's character and on those of the characters that surround him.

An example: Odin's very existence causes a lot of problems. He's so powerful that when Thor can't handle a really big danger Odin gets

dragged in to take care of it. Or else you get Odin against Thor. Odin says, "Son, you've been proud for the 334th time - once too often - and I'm gonna nail you to the wall!" This always struck me as funny - of all the characters in that book who needed lessons in humility, Thor is maybe number two in line. So, I'd like to make Odin brighter and put him more in the background.

MA: This is more than just a break in continuity in writing. With you doing the artwork it's a break in the art style as well.

WS: There will be a difference in terms of inking, but I think a lot of what I'm doing in terms of drawing will owe a lot to Jack Kirby's version of Thor. Thor, when he throws a punch, will always have his feet spread eight feet apart. That's part of the visual vocabulary of super heroes that Kirby created and I don't think anybody's come up with a better vocabulary since then. Since Kirby began doing super heroes, either you borrow heavily from his vocabulary or you ignore it. It's almost a conscious choice to do one or the other. I think Jack is that important to the look of super heroes and to the creation of an entire visual vocabulary for them in a way nobody else has ever been.

On the other hand, when I was drawing Thor a few years ago, I used a lot of "Kirbyoid" motifs in the costumes and buildings. I still intend to do that, at least initially, so a lot of the pencils will own something to the best THORs of the past. Whether people will see past the inking to that, I don't know. I would eventually like to introduce new motifs into the book. Asgard will remain the lump of rock floating in space with the rainbow attached. That was a great piece of drawing - nothing I can do will be any better than that. But I do intend to introduce the dragonheads from Viking ships and the interwoven design work of a lot of Viking tools and artifacts.

What I want to do is the best of the concepts that Stan Lee and Jack Kirby created and add something new as well.



THE CREATION OF A NEW LIMITED SERIES

ILLYANA AND STORM

by Mark Lerer

Somewhere – somewhen – in the dark realm between planes of reality called Limbo, a malevolent sorcerer tempts an innocent girl. And the latest Marvel Limited Series is born! **ILLYANA AND STORM**, a four-part series from the creative nucleus that brings you **X-MEN** and **THE NEW MUTANTS**, chronicles the life of **Illyana Natalyanovna Rasputin**, kid sister of **X-Man**, **Colossus**, during the mysterious time she spent in the domain of the demon-lord **Belasco**.

Let's go back. Remember **X-MEN #160**? **Belasco**, banished to limbo by the dark gods he serves, magically abducted **Illyana** from the **X-Men's** care. He enticed her to stay with him by giving her a mystic amulet. He promised her a glorious destiny if she would learn from him mastery of the arcane arts. **The X-Men** had followed **Illyana** into Limbo, and after encountering strange, demonic versions of them-

selves, managed to rescue her. But, while literally tugging the girl out of one realm and into the other, **Kitty Pryde** lost her grip on **Illyana** momentarily. One brief moment in our dimension apparently corresponded to seven years in **Belasco's** world, for **Illyana** returned safely with our heroes to Earth a full seven years older!

Things got a little strange around Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters after that. The now-thirteen-year-old **Illyana** seemed as close as ever to her American family, but she confided in them precious little about the seven years she spent with **Belasco**. Mused **Kitty**, "I keep forgetting that she spent half of her life in a mystic limbo... She hardly ever speaks of that time, and we've never pressed her. I wonder if we'll learn... I wonder if we really want to!" We learned a little bit when **Illyana** dropped this hint to Professor Xavier:

Then, seven issues later, coyness gave way to terror! After seeing an image of **Belasco**, **Illyana** conjured a mystic sword and attacked **Kitty**, as if possessed by some dark demon!

The other star of the Limited Series is the version of **Storm** that our heroes met in **Belasco's** Limbo. She is **Storm's** older self, a sorceress who has achieved command of the arts arcane. Meeting this future self has been a disturbing experience for "our" **Storm**. She has come to wonder what latent sorcerous talents she may possess in addition to her familiar mutant powers. And how could she ever learn to live and master sorcery in **Belasco's** realm when she knows how evil **Belasco** is?

ILLYANA AND STORM answers these questions. Set in Limbo during those mysterious seven years, it recounts the two heroine's experiences with sorcery, with **Belasco's** minions, and with the unpredictability of their true selves. Editor **Louise Jones** elaborated for us: "**Storm**, in her wisdom and maturity, encourages **Illyana's** involvement with Light sorcery, the magic of responsibility, of good. But there is a Dark sorcery, too – less benevolent, more dangerous, and more... fun. And remember that knowledge of any sorcery, Dark or Light, good or bad, will corrupt.

"Furthermore, **Illyana** and **Storm's** seven years are fraught with tragedy."

John Buscema will draw the series. **Tom Palmer**, one of the medium's most sought-after and influential craftsmen, will ink. **Chris Claremont**, the **X-Men** writer who knows the characters of **Illyana** and **Storm** inside out, will script. This fine creative ensemble promises a four-part adventure of high fantasy and drama unparalleled in the contemporary comics scene.

Watch for it!



LETTERS (MARVEL PAGE? MARVEL POSTAGE? AGE PAGE?)

Dear Carol,

MARVEL AGE is one of the best magazines **Marvel** puts out. The 25¢ price is fantastic! I read every issue from cover to cover time and again to make sure that I don't miss a thing!

In issue #1, you mentioned the possibility of a **Nightcrawler Limited Series**. Will this come about? **Nightcrawler** is my favorite super hero. I don't know why **Kitty Pryde** would be scared of him; I think he looks funny, not fierce. I'd certainly want to see him in his own series, and hope we'll have more of the other **X-Men**, seeing as the **Wolverine** series was such a hit.

While on the topic of the **X-Men**, is **Madelyne Pryor** the **Phoenix** come back? For, as we know, a phoenix dies only to be reborn again. Please tell me if my hunch is correct - I'll keep the secret, I promise!

Thanks again for **MARVEL AGE**!

James Willcock
Flavelle House
St. Andrews College
Aurora, Ontario
Canada L4G 3H7

Thanks for the rave, Jim. You'll have to check out **X-MEN #175** to see if your hunch about **Madelyn Pryor** is correct or not! And yes! There will be a **Nightcrawler** miniseries, to be drawn by **Dave Cockrum**. We'll announce when it premieres right here in **MARVEL AGE**. so keep reading!

Dear Carol,

The "Newswatch" appearing in **MARVEL AGE #2** stated that the party scene appearing in issue #196 of **DAREDEVIL** would also appear in **IRON MAN #171**. But that party scene, featuring **Heather** and **Tark** appeared in issue #195, which went on sale three weeks before the **IRON MAN** issue. A minor slip, but one deserving a No-Prize, perhaps?

I would also like to commend you on your fine fanzine. **MARVEL AGE** is informative and well laid out. I particularly like your "Coming

Attractions" feature, which gets me interested in comics I would normally not even look for! Thank you for a thoroughly enjoyable mag.

Eric Ruder

29204 Oceanridge Dr.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

You're getting your no-prize, Eric, although the mistake you caught isn't generally the type we give them out for. Let's just say we're feeling particularly generous!

Dear Marvel People,

Daredevil's trip to Japan should be interesting, but I don't like the idea of a bunch of doctors going around and duplicating **Wolverine's** skeleton! **Adamantium** is a rare and expensive metal, from a top secret formula accessible only to a few governments. Be careful how you do the story.

A few words about fighting styles. In **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE**, you state that there are several characters who have become "masters" of self-defense. I know a seventh-degree black belt in karate, and he claims that he is still a student. My friend tells me that to be a master at any art takes a full lifetime of practice and study. Many of **Marvel's** characters excel at their individual fighting styles, but I would not go so far as to call them "masters." **Captain America** is probably the most complete fighter you have, and he excels at gymnastics, acrobatics, and many of the martial arts; but he is master of no single discipline. The only legitimate "masters" I can think of in the **Marvel Universe** are **Shang-Chi**, **Iron Fist**, **Mantis**, **Electra**, **Karnak**, **Batroc**, the **Swordsman**, and **Hawkeye**.

Here's a suggestion for your **World War II** characters. How about having them gather for a reunion in England at **Spitfire's** house? It would be fun to have **Captain America** be the youngest-looking in attendance. They could all tell what

they've been up to since the war. Perhaps friends or relatives could attend in place of those heroes who are dead. Give it a thought.

To give you some idea of how much I enjoy your comics, I make a forty-mile trip every month to get them. What one won't do for a little entertainment, eh?

Jason Crom
13th South Springs Rd
Northwood, IA 50459

We're passing along your excellent suggestions to the rest of the **Bullpen**, Jason. Incidentally, we apologize for not being able to print your letter in its entirety, but space considerations forced us to edit it a bit.

Dear Carol,

MARVEL AGE is the best, most informative comic book I've ever read. How long is it going to stay out?

Patrick Vila
26 Herron Rd.
Winnipeg, Man.
Canada

'Til about three or four in the morning! Seriously (ouch!) **MARVEL AGE** will continue to come out every month as long as fans like you continue to support it. And the price will remain at only 25¢!

Dear Marvel Agers,

On page five of the "Coming Attractions" section in issue #4, you announced that you'd be running "The Office Handbook of the **Marvel Universe**." Shouldn't that be "Official Handbook of the **Marvel Universe**," and do I get a No-Prize?

Byron Shimabukuro
1009 A 13th Ave.
Honolulu, HA 96816

Nope! You read it correctly! We all know what the **Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe** is - but this is a different animal called the **Office Handbook**! Watch for it next issue!



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